

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/098,511
Response filed December 3, 2004
Reply to OA dated September 10, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. An amendment is proposed to claims 5 and 9 in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **September 10, 2004**.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the Claims.

The objection to the drawings is respectfully traversed in part, and overcome in part by the amendments to the claims.

1) The Examiner states that the embodiment of claim 5, "wherein said main body side coupling portion fits in a filtration portion side fitting member," is not illustrated. Claim 5 has been amended to replace the phrase "for preventing said main body side coupling portion from rotating around an axial core and fits in a filtration portion side fitting member provided to said water purifier filtration portion" with -- and said water purifier filtration portion is provided with a filtration portion side fitting member for fitting into the main body side fitting member such that the main body side coupling portion is prevented from rotating around the axial core--.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/098,511
Response filed December 3, 2004
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This amendment corrects claim 5 to correctly recite that the filtration portion side fitting member fits into the main body side fitting member, replacing the recitation that the main body side coupling portion fits into a filtration side fitting member.

Claim 9 has been similarly amended.

2) The Examiner states that the embodiment of claims 7 and 11 in which “the filtration portion side stopping member is allowed to move only in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of the filtration side coupling portion,” is not illustrated.

This objection is respectfully traversed. The cited clauses in claims 7 and 11 were amended in the Amendment dated July 20, 2004, and claims 7 and 11 no longer recite this. Applicant submits that the current wording, “said filtration portion side stopping member and said main body side stopping member are allowed to move relatively to each other in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of said filtration portion side coupling portion,” is illustrated in the drawings.

3) The Examiner states that the embodiment in which the main body side stopping member and filtration portion side stopping member are relatively moveable in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of the main body side coupling portion as recited in claims 1, 7, 10 and 11, is not shown in the drawings.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/098,511
Response filed December 3, 2004
Reply to OA dated September 10, 2004

The objection is respectfully traversed. The motion allowed by the arrangement recited in this clause of the claims is shown in Fig 5(b) as amended in the Amendment dated July 20, 2004. Specifically, the arrow 75 indicates the motion of the stopping members.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

The rejection is respectfully traversed in part, and overcome in part by the amendments to the claims.

1) The rejection of claim 5 is overcome by the amendment to claim 5, which now correctly recites that the filtration portion side fitting member fits into the main body side fitting member.

2) The Examiner states that the specification fails to disclose the embodiment of claims 7 and 11 in which “the filtration portion side stopping member is allowed to move only in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of the filtration side coupling portion.”

This rejection is respectfully traversed. The cited clauses in claims 7 and 11 were amended in the Amendment dated July 20, 2004, and claims 7 and 11 no longer recite this. Applicant submits that the current recitation of claims 7 and 11 is enabled by the specification.

3) The Examiner states with regard to claims 1, 6, 7, 10 and 11, that the concept in “said main body side stopping member and said filtration portion side stopping member are allowed to move relatively to each other in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of said main body side coupling portion” has not been adequately disclosed in the specification.

The rejection is respectfully traversed. Specifically, the term “main body side stopping member” appears in the specification referring to “stoppers 42 and 42’ ”, and the term “filtration portion side stopping members” refers to “stoppers 48 and 48’ ”. The motion of these stoppers is described in Figs. 5-11, in particular arrow 75 in Fig. 5(a) and in the specification on page 33, lines 11-24. Applicant submits that this disclosure enables the recitation of the claims.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

The Examiner states that the concept in “said main body side stopping member and said filtration portion side stopping member are allowed to move relatively to each other in one direction that intersects substantially at right angles with an axial core direction of said main body side coupling portion”, added in the Amendment dated July 20, 2004, represents new matter.

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant submits that written description support for this clause of the claims may be found in the specification on page 33, lines 11-24:

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/098,511
Response filed December 3, 2004
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“the stoppers 42 and 42’ and the stoppers 48 and 48’ are provided so that they are allowed to **slide along only in the axial core direction** of the supply inlet 12, that is, in one particular direction that intersects **substantially at right angles with** the flowing direction of raw water passing by the main body side coupling portion 39 in the connection operation and the disconnection operation of the valve main body and the cartridge 5. Thus, the connection is disconnected only when the stoppers 42 and 42’ and the stoppers 48 and 48’ **move relatively to each other in the above-specified one particular direction**” (emphasis added)

That is, stoppers 42 and 42’ correspond to the main body side stopping member, and stoppers 48 and 48’ correspond to the filtration portion side stopping member.

Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is respectfully requested.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-11, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant’s undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/098,511**
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Reply to OA dated September 10, 2004

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



Daniel A. Geselowitz, Ph.D.

Agent for Applicant

Reg. No. 42,573

DAG/mla
Atty. Docket No. 020257
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



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